Operators Manual

In a world of compromise, some don't.

Calibers .45 ACP
.40 S&W
.357 SIG
9mm x 19

HK USP Compact Pistol

SAFETY RULES

Please read this operators manual before handling your firearm. The following safety rules are placed in this manual by Heckler & Koch as an important reminder that firearms safety is **your** responsibility. Firearms can be dangerous and can potentially cause serious injury, damage to property or death, if handled improperly.

1. Never point a firearm at anyone, or in any direction other than a SAFE direction, i.e. downrange.
2. Treat all firearms as if they are always loaded.
3. Keep your finger off the trigger and outside of the trigger guard until your sights are aligned on the target and you are ready to fire.
4. Keep your finger off the trigger and outside of the trigger guard while loading or unloading the firearm.
5. Keep your finger off the trigger and outside of the trigger guard while pulling the firearm out of the holster or while returning it to the holster.
6. Be sure of your target and the back stop beyond.
7. Never give a firearm to or take a firearm from anyone unless the action is open and the magazine and/or chamber are free of any ammunition or brass.
8. Be sure that the ammunition you are using is factory loaded, is of the correct caliber for the firearm in which it is to be used, and that it is not damaged in any way.
9. Before firing, remove the magazine from the firearm, lock the action open, make sure the chamber is clear of any ammunition or brass, and check the barrel of the **unloaded** firearm for any possible obstructions.
10. Before firing any firearm that is unfamiliar to you, make sure that you understand exactly how it functions. A lack of familiarity with the firearm can result in serious accidents. Attend a certified training course on any firearm which you intend to use or with which you are not sufficiently familiar.
11. Always wear hearing and eye protection when using your firearm.
12. Keep all body parts, especially the hands and fingers, away from the muzzle to avoid injury or burns.
13. Be sure that no part of either hand touches or interferes with the slide. The slide is moved backwards by the recoil force of the pistol during firing and may cause serious injury.
14. Firearms should be stored separately from ammunition and beyond the reach of children, and/or any untrained individuals.
15. Avoid the use of any alcoholic beverages or drugs before and during the use of any firearm.
16. Discharging firearms in poorly ventilated areas, cleaning firearms, or handling ammunition may result in exposure to lead, a substance known to be associated with birth defects, reproductive harm, and other serious injury. Have adequate ventilation at all times. Wash hands thoroughly after exposure.

STOP! Know how to clear this pistol before attempting to operate.

Clearing the Pistol The HK USP Compact is not considered "clear" or safe unless:

1. The control lever (if applicable) is on "SAFE" and;
2. The magazine is removed from the pistol and;
3. The slide is locked to the rear and;
4. The chamber is free of brass or ammunition

To Clear the HK USP Compact:

1. **Make sure fingers are outside of the trigger guard and the pistol is pointed in a safe direction at all times!**
2. **Engage control lever** (if applicable) – press the control lever/safety lever upwards until the "S" aligns with the reference line located on the frame.
3. **Remove magazine** - depress the magazine release lever and remove the magazine from the pistol.
4. **Open and lock slide** - **while pointing the pistol in a safe direction,** lock the slide open by pulling the slide rearward as you press the slide release upward. Watch for a cartridge or empty case to be ejected from the pistol.
5. **Inspect chamber** - inspect chamber for the presence of a cartridge or empty case by:
   - Visually viewing chamber through open ejection port and;
   - Physically inserting finger into chamber through ejection port to check for the presence of a cartridge or empty case.

Remove any cartridges or empty cases from the chamber or from within the pistol.

The HK USP Compact is now considered "Clear".

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Specifications and models subject to change without notice.

HK USP Compact Operators Manual

Calibers .45 ACP
.40 S&W
.357 SIG
9mm x 19

This manual applies to pistol types USP9 COMPACT (9mm), USP357 COMPACT (.357 SIG), USP40 COMPACT (.40 S&W), and USP45 COMPACT (.45 ACP). The handling and operation of all three pistols is identical. The illustrations show the USP40 COMPACT. All USP Pistols comply with NIJ Standard – 0112.00

WARNING
A firearm has the capability of taking your life or the life of someone else! Be extremely careful with your firearm. An accident can occur at anytime and is almost always the result of not following basic safety rules.

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SECTION 1 INTRODUCTION

The HK USP Compact is a small frame pistol capable of firing the most powerful cartridges in .45 ACP, .40 S&W, .357 SIG, and 9mm x 19; including all +P 9mm ammunition. Based on the full size HK USP (Universal Self-loading Pistol), these handy pistols are a reasonable synthesis of compact size and effective shooting capabilities. Unlike some subcompact semi-automatic pistols that use a difficult to shoot “two-finger grip” frame, the HK USP Compact uses a narrow, full hand grip frame. This makes the pistol easy to shoot without sacrificing concealability.

All variants of the USP Compact have a modified contoured slide and frame for effective concealability. Several variants also have a no snag, bobbed hammer.

The frame mounted control lever, a combination safety and decocking lever, has a slimline profile for compactness but is still quickly accessible, unlike the slide mounted safeties common on many semiautomatic pistols.

The USP control lever has a positive stop and returns to the “fire” position after decocking. The control lever, featured on many variants of the USP and USP Compact allows these pistols to be safely carried “cocked and locked”.

Derived from the full size Heckler & Koch USP introduced in 1993, the USP Compact is designed with the demanding needs of the American shooter in mind.

Features favored by US civilian, law enforcement, and military users provided the design criteria for the full size USP and the USP Compact. Controls are uniquely American, influenced by such famous and successful designs as the Government Model 1911 pistol. And like the Model 1911, many variants of the USP and USP Compact can be safely carried “cocked and locked”.

Using a modified Browning-type action, the USP Compact is built to take the punishment of high energy +P loads. But unlike large frame USPs, the Compact does not use the patented USP recoil reduction system. To reduce the size of the slide on the USP Compact, the mechanical recoil reduction system found on large frame USPs has been eliminated, replaced by a specially designed flat compression spring contained in the captive recoil spring assembly by an absorber bushing made of a high strength polymer.

The polymer frame of the USP Compact was designed using technical experience gained by HK engineers in the development of the world's first composite material pistols, the HK VP70Z and P9S. These same high-strength/corrosion free materials are used in the MK 23 .45 ACP handgun produced by HK for the U.S. Special Operations Command.

Major metal components like the one-piece, machined steel slide are also corrosion resistant, treated with a special "HE" (Hostile Environment) protective finish. The HE finish is an extremely hard, nitro-gas carburized black oxide coating, and resists even the worst types of corrosion and wear, including prolonged exposure to salt water.

Stainless steel models are also available for those who prefer metallurgical corrosion resistance and the contrasting appearance of these materials.

The HK USP Compact pistol is presently available in calibers .45 ACP, .40 S&W, .357 SIG, and 9mm x19. Large frame USP models are also available in the same calibers with the exception of .357 SIG.

The design characteristics of all HK USPs provide a wide range of flexibility for users. By using a modular approach to the internal components, the control lever function of all USPs can be switched from the left to the right side of the pistol for left-handed shooters. All USPs can also be converted from one type of trigger/firing mode to another. This includes combination double-action and single-action (DA/SA) modes and double action only (DA-Only) modes.

Both large frame and Compact USPs are available in the following trigger/firing mode configurations (see Figure 10).

NOTE
Trigger/firing mode conversion can only be made by an HK certified armorer.

DA/SA with "safe" position and control lever (manual safety/decocking lever) on left side of frame
À DA/SA with "safe" position and control lever (manual safety/decocking lever) on right side of frame

Variants and À allow the user to carry the pistol in a single-action mode (cocked and locked) with the control lever/manual safety engaged. This same pistol, without modification, can be carried in double-action mode, with

or without the control lever/manual safety engaged.

Ã DA/SA without “safe” position with control lever (decocking lever) on the left side of frame
Õ DA/SA without “safe” position with control lever (decocking lever) on the right side of frame

Variants Ã and Õ provides the user with a frame-mounted decocking lever that does not have the “safe” position. This combination only allows the hammer to be lowered from SA position to DA position. It does not provide the “safe” position to prevent the pistol from firing when the trigger is pulled.

Œ DA-Only with “safe” position and control lever (manual safety) on the left side of frame
œ DA-Only with “safe” position and control lever (manual safety) on the right side of frame
– DA-Only without control lever (no safety/decocking lever)

For the DA-Only user, variants Œ , œ , and – of the USP operate as double action only pistols with the hammer always returning to the DA position (forward) after each shot is fired. To fire each shot, the trigger must be pulled through the smooth DA trigger pull. Variants Œ and œ have a manual safety lever (control lever). No control lever is provided on variant –.

æ DA/SA with “safe” position and control lever (manual safety) on the left side of frame
ø DA/SA with “safe” position and control lever (manual safety) on the right side of frame

Variants ‘ and ’ allow the user to carry the pistol in a single-action mode (cocked and locked) with the manual safety engaged. Unlike variants and À, the control lever cannot be used to decock the hammer. These variants are the ideal choice for users who prefer shooting the pistol in the SA mode with the thumb placed on top of the control lever/manual safety. Variants ‘ and ’ also use a spurred hammer, unlike other USP Compact variants.

This same pistol, without modification, can be carried in double-action mode, with or without the control lever/manual safety engaged, and provides second primer strike ability to single-action shooters.

Due to this innovative design approach, it is possible to convert a USP Compact into any one of the listed variants. Changing the trigger/firing mode of the pistol is

accomplished by installing a different set of components.

This unique design allows the HK Compact Universal Self-loading Pistol to be configured for a variety of purposes depending on the requirements of the user, without having to purchase a new pistol.

USP COMPACT FIRE MODES & CONTROL FUNCTIONS (conversion by HK certified armorer only)	Bobbed Hammer	Double Action & Single Action	Double Action Only	Control Lever (Left Side)	Control Lever (Right Side)	Control Lever (Manual Safety)	Control Lever (Decocking)	Control Lever (No Decocking)	Caliber Availability
Variant 1	●	●		●		●	●		.45, .40, 9mm, 357 SIG
Variant 2	●	●			●	●	●		.45, .40, 9mm, 357 SIG
Variant 3	●	●		●			●		.45, .40, 9mm, 357 SIG
Variant 4	●	●			●		●		.45, .40, 9mm, 357 SIG
Variant 5	●		●	●		●		●	.45, .40, 9mm, 357 SIG
Variant 6	●		●		●	●		●	.45, .40, 9mm, 357 SIG
Variant 7	●		●						.45, .40, 9mm, 357 SIG
Variant 9		●		●		●		●	.45, .40, 9mm, 357 SIG
Variant 10		●			●	●		●	.45, .40, 9mm, 357 SIG

Figure 10
Fire Modes and Control Functions by Variant

In addition to a wide selection of trigger/firing modes, all USP Compacts have an ambidextrous magazine release lever which is shielded from inadvertent actuation by the flared trigger guard.
The magazine release lever can be pressed with the thumb or index finger of the firing hand, in most cases without adjusting the firing grip.

Low profile 3-dot sights, adjustable for windage and elevation, are standard on the USP Compact. Optional tritium sights are also available.

The USP Compact uses metal magazines to keep grip size to a minimum. These magazines have a series of viewing holes on the back side for counting the cartridges remaining inside.

Two different interchangeable floor plates are available for the magazines of the USP Compact. A standard flat floor plate and an extended magazine floor plate with a finger extension provide a choice of grip options with each pistol. Magazine floor plates can be easily removed and changed without tools during disassembly.

The extended slide release is positioned to allow easy actuation without adjustment of the grip of the shooting hand. Another useful feature is the absence of a

magazine lock-out device.

CAUTION

All USP models will fire if the magazine is removed, a cartridge is in the chamber, and the trigger is pressed (with the control lever in the FIRE position if applicable).

To reduce barrel wear, all USP Compacts have polygonal cold hammer-forged barrels. This feature not only ensures longer barrel life and easier bore cleaning, but produces a better gas seal behind the bullet for increased muzzle velocity.

The HK USP Compact, like the large frame USP, is an extremely safe firearm, with no less than four safety features, some passive and some active in nature. Simple to field strip and maintain, the USP Compact is a reliable and trouble-free pistol.

An abbreviated set of universal mounting grooves for installing accessories is molded in the polymer frame of the USP Compact. These grooves allow a variety of accessories and targeting devices, such as the Mark II HK Universal Tactical Light and laser aimers to be mounted on the HK USP Compact without modification to the pistol.

NOTE

Improperly designed or installed accessories may result in damage to the USP mounting grooves and/or the USP Compact pistol. Such damage is not covered under the limited lifetime warranty. Be certain to use only HK Authorized Accessories and follow installation and precautions carefully.

At Heckler & Koch, form follows function. All HK pistols are designed and manufactured to meet the operational

SECTION 2 NOMENCLATURE

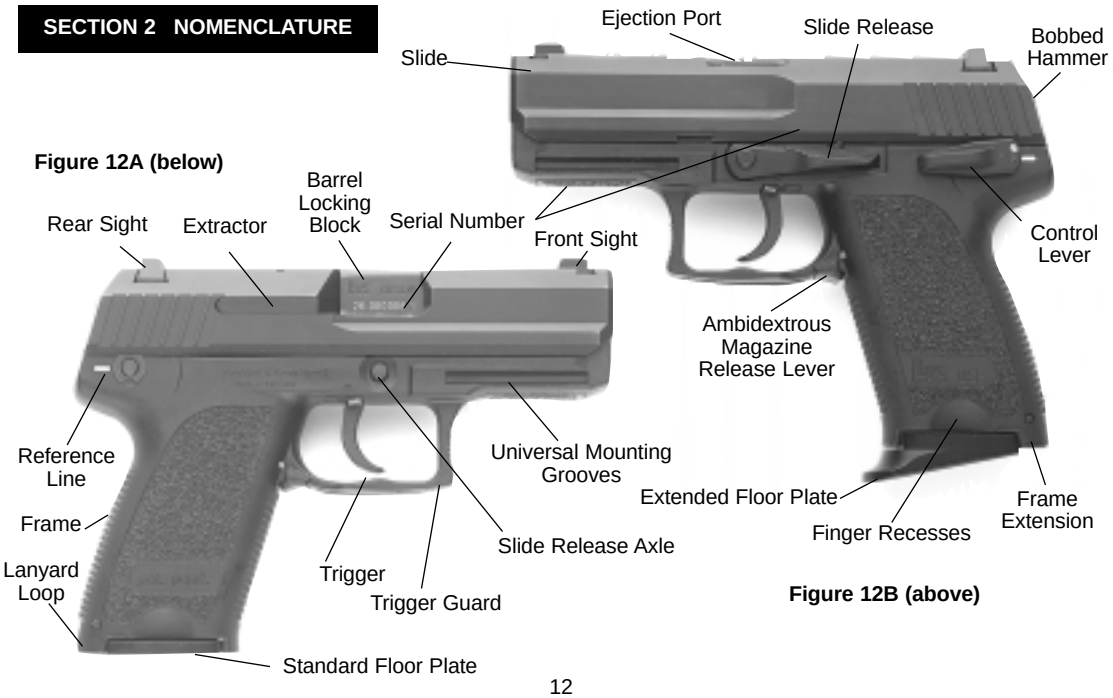

Figure 12A (below)

Figure 12B (above)

SPECIFICATIONS

	USP45 Compact	USP40 Compact	USP357 Compact	USP9 Compact
Caliber	.45 ACP	.40 S&W	.357 SIG	9mm x 19 Parabellum
Operating Principle	Short recoil			
Action Type	Modified Browning type, linkless			
Sights	Fixed patridge style, adjustable for windage & elevation, standard 3-dot or optional tritium			
Total Length	180 mm (7.09 in.)	173 mm (6.81 in.)	173 mm (6.81 in.)	173 mm (6.81 in.)
Barrel Length	96.4 mm (3.80 in.)	91 mm (3.58 in.)	91 mm (3.58 in.)	91 mm (3.58 in.)
Sight Radius	143 mm (5.63 in.)	136 mm (5.35 in.)	136 mm (5.35 in.)	136 mm (5.35 in.)
Twist Length	406 mm (15.98 in.)	378 mm (14.88 in.)	378 mm (14.88 in.)	250 mm (9.84 in.)
Height (Total)	128.5 mm (5.06 in.)	127mm (5.00 in.)	127 mm (5.00 in.)	127 mm (5.00 in.)
Width of Slide	29 mm (1.14 in.)	29 mm (1.14 in.)	29 mm (1.14 in.)	29 mm (1.14 in.)
Width of Frame (includes safety lever)	34 mm (1.34 in.)	34 mm (1.34 in.)	34 mm (1.34 in.)	34 mm (1.34 in.)
Weight (with empty magazine)	795 grams (28.04 oz.)	780 grams (27.51 oz.)	780 grams (27.51 oz.)	750 grams (26.46 oz.)
Weight of Empty Magazine	87 grams (3.07 oz.)	83 grams (2.92 oz.)	83 grams (2.92 oz.)	83 grams (2.92 oz.)
Slide Force (to retract slide)	8.5 kg (18.74 pounds)	8.5 kg (18.74 pounds)	8.5 kg (18.74 pounds)	8.0 kg (17.64 pounds)
Trigger Travel (rest to hammer release)				
Single-action	5 mm (.20 in.)	5 mm (.20 in.)	5 mm (.20 in.)	5 mm (.20 in.)
Double-action	11.5 mm (.45 in.)	11.5 mm (.45 in.)	11.5 mm (.45 in.)	11.5 mm (.45 in.)
Trigger Reach (center of trigger to back of frame)				
Single-action	67.5 mm (2.66 in.)	65 mm (2.56 in.)	65 mm (2.56 in.)	65 mm (2.56 in.)
Double-action	74.5 mm (2.93 in.)	72 mm (2.84 in.)	72 mm (2.84 in.)	72 mm (2.84 in.)
Magazine Capacity (no cartridge in chamber)	8 cartridges	12 cartridges*	12 cartridges*	13 cartridges*

SECTION 3 FUNCTION AND OPERATION

WARNING
Always clear the pistol before handling it.

Clearing the Pistol The HK USP Compact pistol is not considered "clear" or safe unless:

1. The control lever (if applicable) is on "SAFE" and;
2. The magazine is removed from the pistol and;
3. The slide is locked to the rear and;
4. The chamber is free of brass or ammunition

To Clear the HK USP Compact:

1. **Make sure fingers are outside of the trigger guard and the pistol is pointed in a safe direction at all times!**
2. **Engage control lever** (if applicable) - press the safety lever upwards until the "S" aligns with the reference line located on the frame.
3. **Remove magazine** - depress the magazine release lever and remove the magazine from the pistol.
4. **Open and lock slide** - ***while pointing the pistol in a safe direction*** lock the slide open by pulling the slide rearward as you press the slide release upward. Watch for a cartridge or empty case to be ejected from the pistol.
5. **Inspect chamber** - inspect chamber for the presence of a cartridge or empty case by:
   - Visually viewing chamber through open ejection port and;
   - Physically inserting finger into chamber through ejection port to check for the presence of a cartridge or empty case.

Remove any cartridges or empty cases from the chamber or from within the pistol.

The HK USP Compact is now considered "Clear".

General - (Refer to page 12 for the location of the features described below)

Heckler & Koch USP and USP Compacts are short recoil operated. They use a modified Browning style system, without a link, to lock and unlock the barrel.

Upon firing, the pressure developed by the propellant gases forces the slide and barrel assembly to the rear. After moving approximately 3mm, the locking block will stop the rearward movement of the barrel. The barrel is pulled downward due to the engagement of the angled locking surfaces of the locking block with those located

on the end of the recoil spring guide rod. The locking block disengages from the slide and the slide continues rearward independently from the barrel. The extractor, located on the right side of the slide extracts the spent case. The ejector, positioned in the left side of the frame, rearward of the magazine well then ejects the fired cartridge case. The rearward moving slide then cocks the hammer, and compresses the recoil spring.

Once fully to the rear, the compressed recoil spring pushes the slide forward, stripping the next cartridge from the magazine into the chamber. If the magazine is empty, the magazine follower lifts the slide release into position where it can stop the forward progress of the slide and holds the slide open. If a cartridge is present in the magazine, the slide will push the cartridge from the magazine and into the chamber.

WARNING

Do not rely on the slide position to determine if the magazine is empty. Always check visually and physically ensure the pistol is not loaded.

During the last 3mm of forward movement, the slide forces the angled surfaces of the barrel locking block against opposing angled surfaces on the recoil spring guide rod. This action pivots the locking block on the barrel up into engagement with the ejection port on the slide. The breech is now locked closed and the next shot can be fired.

CAUTION

A pair of Universal Mounting Grooves located on the front of the USP Compact's frame allows for a variety of accessories to be used with the pistol. Improperly designed or installed accessories may result in damage to the mounting grooves and/or the pistol. Such damage is not covered under warranty. Be certain to use only HK authorized accessories and follow installation and precautions carefully.

OPERATING CONTROLS & COMPONENTS

WARNING

The HK USP Compact incorporates single action and/or double-action modes of operation. Anytime the trigger is pulled with the control lever in the fire (horizontal) position and a cartridge in the chamber, the pistol will fire from either the hammer down or cocked positions.

Double/Single-action modes - For Variants 1, 2, 3, 4, 9, & 10 in the double-action mode, pulling the trigger will cock the hammer and immediately release it firing the first chambered cartridge. All subsequent cartridges will be fired in the single-action mode because the slide automatically recocks the hammer after each shot is fired.

In the double-action only mode, the hammer always returns to the uncocked (forward) position after each shot. All shots are fired in the double-action mode.

Magazine - USP Compact magazines are constructed of metal with polymer floor plates, followers, and locking plate pieces. Cartridges are positioned within the magazine in a staggered arrangement but are fed into the pistol from a single row under the feed lips. The cartridges are visible through the numbered viewing holes located in the back of the magazine. For maintenance and cleaning, USP Compact magazines can be easily disassembled.

Control Lever - For Variants 1, 3, 5, & 9, this manually operated lever is located on the left side of the frame (for Variants 2, 4, 6, &10 the control lever is positioned on the right side of the frame) below the rear sight. This lever is operated with the firing thumb and can perform both functions of a safety lever and a decocking lever, depending on the parts installed. ***Note: Not all variants have a control lever.***

Control lever as a safety lever - On HK USP Compacts with the “SAFE” position (Variants 1, 2, 5, 6, 9, & 10), the front of this lever is fully raised above horizontal so that the “S” on the lever itself aligns with the reference line on the frame. (See Figure 17A) With this control lever engaged, the release of the hammer is blocked in the single-action mode of fire. In the double-action mode, the hammer will partially cock but will not release to fire the pistol.

Figure 17A

To fire the pistol, the front of the control lever is moved down horizontally into the “FIRE” position. In this position, the “F” on the lever aligns with the reference line located on the frame. (See Figure 17B) With the control lever set on “F”, the pistol will fire if the trigger is pulled and a cartridge is present in the chamber.

Figure 17B

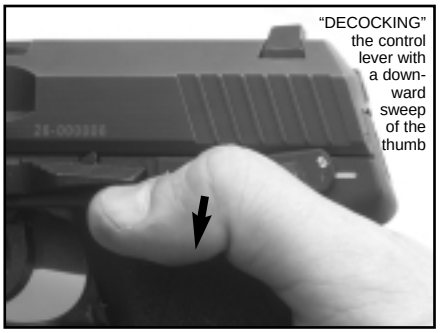

Figure 17C

Control lever as a decocking lever - On HK USP Compacts without the “SAFE” position (Variants 3 & 4), the front of the control lever cannot be raised above horizontal and the pistol will fire anytime the trigger is pulled with a cartridge in the chamber. The control lever only functions as a decocking lever to lower the cocked hammer into the double-action mode. The cocked hammer is lowered when the control lever is fully depressed by the operator (see Figure 17C). This lever is spring actuated and springs back up into the horizontal (fire) position when released.

Control lever as a safety/decocking lever - On USP Compact Variants 1 and 2, the control lever can be placed in the safe, fire, and decocking positions described earlier. A USP fitted with this control lever can be carried as a single action or double action pistol, with or without the safe position. The control lever also allows the cocked hammer to be decocked when the control lever is fully depressed. (See Figure 17C).

WARNING

The USP Compact should not be carried in the single action mode without the control lever in the safe position.

Extractor - The extractor of the HK USP Compact pistol acts as a loaded chamber indicator. When a cartridge is in the chamber, the red colored forward edge of the extractor protrudes approximately 1 mm from the slide and is visible to the operator.

Slide Release - This lever is located on the left side of the frame directly above the trigger. This lever is used to lock the slide open, to release the slide, and to disassemble the pistol.

As a slide stop, it is lifted upward by the magazine follower or the operators finger as the slide travels rearward during recoil or manual manipulation. The slide release engages in the recess located on the left side of the slide at it's midpoint. The slide release is spring actuated and is held down out of engagement with the slide until required. The slide release will automatically hold the slide open when the last shot is fired. As a disassembly lever, the slide release is removed from the left side of the frame when the slide is held partially rearward.

Magazine Release Lever - This ambidextrous, spring actuated lever holds the magazine in place within the grip by engaging in the notch found on the front of the magazine housing.

Depressing this lever downward with the firing index finger or thumb will allow the magazine, regardless of the number of cartridges inside, to drop free of the frame. The magazine release lever is shielded from accidental actuation by the design of the polymer frame and flared trigger guard surrounding it.

Frame - All sides of the polymer frame are textured to ensure a firm grip, even with wet hands or under conditions of rapid fire.

The trigger guard is slightly recurved and grooved to provide a firm grip when using two hands or gloves to fire the pistol. The frame is a one-piece molded component with metal inserts (locking insert and guiding part) cast into the frame during production.

The slide rides on these metal inserts during operation. The frame contains mounting grooves for accessory attachment and finger recesses located to the left and right of the magazine well for manual extraction of the magazine, if necessary. The serial number of the pistol is engraved in the metal insert incorporated into the front of the frame in front of the trigger guard, on the left side of the slide, and on the barrel locking block.

Figure 19

Sights - The USP Compact uses the proven 3-dot sighting arrangement. By aligning all three dots horizontally on the target, with the front sight dot centered between the rear sight dots, the operator can quickly and easily engage the target with a high degree of accuracy (Figure 19). With the optional tritium sights installed, precise and rapid target engagements are possible under low light conditions as well.

The rear sight can be adjusted for windage by drifting the sight to the left or to the right, depending on the desired shot placement. Bullet impact on target will move in the same direction that the rear sight is moved. Be careful not to damage the slide finish when adjusting the rear sight.

Adjustments for elevation are accomplished by exchanging the front sight with a higher or lower sight, available from HK. The height of the front sight is indicated on the underside. The front sight must be removed by using a drift punch or an HK USP sight pusher. The accessory HK sight pusher can be used to install, remove, and adjust the front and rear sights on all USP and USP Compact pistols.

To raise the bullet impact on target, a shorter front sight is installed. To lower the bullet impact on target, a taller front sight is installed. Installing the next higher or lower front sight will change the point-of-impact 2 inches at 25 meters, depending on the ammunition used. USP Compacts are function fired and zeroed at the factory at 25 meters, point-of-aim, point-of-impact. Your actual zero may vary depending on the ammunition used and/or your style of shooting.

SECTION 4 AMMUNITION

WARNING

Heckler & Koch specifically disclaims any responsibilities for any damage or injury that should occur because of, or as a result of, the use of faulty, remanufactured, or reloaded (hand loaded) ammunition, or of cartridges other than those for which the pistol was originally chambered for.

The HK USP Compact is designed to fire quality, factory loaded ammunition loaded to SAAMI specifications for use specifically in handguns. For use with ammunition with hard primers (i.e. some NATO spec. cartridges), a special hammer spring is available.

The following guidelines should be considered when selecting the correct ammunition for your pistol.

1. Be sure the ammunition you have chosen is compatible with your pistol – proper caliber, cartridge, bullet weight, etc. Caliber markings on the USP Compact appear on the left side of the slide and on the barrel locking block, visible through the ejection port on the right side of the slide.

2. Prior to loading the magazine and chamber, carefully inspect all cartridges for the following abnormalities:

- Cracked, split, dirty or corroded cases
- Improperly seated projectiles and/or primers
- Damaged projectiles

3. Do not attempt to fire a cartridge in which the projectile has been forced back into the case. Upon firing, this condition may result in increased chamber pressure above safe limits.

4. Do not fire ammunition through the pistol that:

- Is foreign and/or outdated military surplus
- Is assembled with corrosive primer and/or propellant
- Is exposed to oil, grease, water, or direct sunlight. Remove contaminants if possible before use and cool down ammunition exposed to direct sunlight or heat. (Exposure to sources of heat could raise the chamber pressure of the cartridge above safe limits.)
- Is loaded specifically for use in submachine guns.

NOTE

In compliance with NIJ Standard—0112.00, currently there are no known ammunition types that meet the general guidelines set forth in this section that are not compatible with the USP Compact pistols. All USP pistols are approved for use with +P and +P+ ammunition. The use of +P and +P+ ammunition accelerates wear and reduces the service life on the component parts of any pistol, including the HK USP Compact.

NOTE

There is currently no existing SAAMI specification +P or +P+ ammunition in caliber .40 S&W.

WARNING

The use of incorrect ammunition in the pistol could result in damage to the pistol and /or injury to the operator or bystanders. Be careful not to inadvertently mix 9mm and .40 caliber ammunition. 9mm ammunition will slide past the chamber and into the barrel in a .40 caliber pistol.

SECTION 5 INSTRUCTIONS FOR USE

Clearing the Pistol -
The USP Compact pistol is not considered "clear" or safe unless:

1. The control lever (if applicable) is on "SAFE" and;
2. The magazine is removed from the pistol and;
3. The slide is locked to the rear and;
4. The chamber is free of brass or ammunition

To Clear the HK USP Compact:

1. **Make sure fingers are outside of the trigger guard and the pistol is pointed in a safe direction at all times!**
2. **Engage control lever** (if applicable) - press the control lever upwards until the "S" aligns with the reference line located on the frame.
3. **Remove magazine** - depress the magazine release lever and remove the magazine from the pistol.
4. **Open and lock slide** - ***while pointing the pistol in a safe direction,*** lock the slide open by pulling the slide rearward as you press the slide release upward. Watch for a cartridge or empty case to be ejected from the pistol.
5. **Inspect chamber** - inspect chamber for the presence of a cartridge or empty case by:
   A. Visually viewing chamber through open ejection port and;
   B. Physically inserting finger into chamber through ejection port to check for the presence of a cartridge or empty case.

Remove any cartridges or empty cases from the chamber or from within the pistol.

The HK USP Compact is now considered "Clear".

Filling and Emptying the Magazine -

NOTE

Do not attempt to load more than the prescribed number of cartridges into the magazine. Do not alter the shape of the magazine housing, follower, or spring. To do so may cause stoppages or the magazine may not seat properly in the pistol.

Filling the Magazine - (See Figure 23 below)

Figure 23

1. Hold the magazine in the non-firing hand with the back side of the magazine resting against the palm.
2. Using the firing hand, hold a cartridge between the index finger and thumb with the projectile facing the palm.
3. Press the rim of the cartridge down against the forward edge of the magazine follower **or** on the top cartridge already in the magazine.
4. Slide the cartridge back into the magazine under the feed lips.
5. Repeat steps 1-4 until the magazine is full. The viewing holes in the back of the magazine allow the operator to confirm the number of cartridges present within the magazine.

Emptying the Magazine - Exert pressure with a finger on the base of the cartridge and push each cartridge forward out of the magazine one at a time until the magazine is empty.

Loading the Pistol -

WARNING

Forcefully inserting a loaded magazine into the USP Compact may cause the pistols slide to close, chambering a cartridge and making the USP ready to fire.

When inserting a magazine, always be certain the control lever (if applicable), is in the "SAFE" position and that the pistol is pointed in a safe direction with your fingers off the trigger and outside the trigger guard. Failure to do so could cause you to unintentionally fire the pistol, resulting in serious injury or death.

Administrative Loading - used to initially load the pistol before it is to be fired.

Slide rearward or forward, chamber empty

1. **Make sure fingers are outside of the trigger guard and the pistol is pointed in a safe direction at all times!**
2. **On safe** - place the control lever in the safe position (if applicable)
3. **Insert magazine** - insert the magazine firmly into the frame. Tug on the magazine to insure that it is fully seated and engaged.
4. **Chamber a cartridge** - chamber a cartridge by depressing the slide release or by pulling the slide fully to the rear and releasing it. **Do not ride the slide forward!**
5. **Decock/On Safe** - depress the control lever to decock the hammer and/or place the control lever on “safe”.
6. **Top off** - remove the magazine and top it off by inserting one additional cartridge.
7. **Replace Magazine** - after topping off the magazine, replace it in the pistol and ensure that it is properly seated and engaged.

WARNING

On Variants 1, 2, 3 and 4 the recommended method of lowering the hammer is as follows:
• be sure the firearm is pointing in a safe direction.
• be sure that your finger is off of the trigger and outside of the trigger guard.
• push down on the control lever (decocking lever) moving it into the decock position, this allows the hammer to fall safely into the half-cock position. After decocking, release the control lever and it will return to the fire position.

Any attempt to lower the hammer manually (with a round in the chamber), will allow the hammer to be lowered past the half-cock notch and bypasses the passive safeties which are built into the USP and could result in an accidental discharge and subsequent property damage, injury or loss of life.

On DA/SA models without the decocking function in the control lever (Variants 9 and 10), it is unsafe to lower the hammer while there is a round in the chamber.

WARNING (continued)

On Variant 9 and 10 pistols, to lower the hammer on an empty chamber, the following steps must be followed with extreme care. remember: lowering the hammer manually on the USP pistol requires pulling the trigger. The action of pulling the trigger bypasses the passive safeties which are built into the USP. If there is a round in the chamber when the hammer is being lowered manually, and if the hammer slips, the gun could discharge causing possible subsequent property damage, injury or loss of life.

1. Point the pistol in a safe direction and put the manual safety in the "on" or "safe" position by moving the control lever fully upward.

2. Remove the magazine.

3. While keeping your finger off of the trigger and outside of the trigger guard draw the slide to the rear and push the slide stop up to lock the slide in the open position. Inspect the chamber visually and manually to ensure that there is no round in the chamber.

4. Release the slide by pressing down on the slide stop.

5. Disengage the manual safety by moving the control lever downward to the "fire" position.

6. Hold the pistol firmly in one hand as if you were going to discharge the firearm. Using the thumb of the hand which is not holding the pistol, draw the hammer slightly to the rear. Using the index finger of the hand which is holding the pistol, pull the trigger to the rear.

Lower the hammer SLOWLY, while at the same time releasing the trigger, removing your finger from the trigger and placing it outside of the trigger guard. Continue to lower the hammer SLOWLY until it has come to a complete rest against the back of the slide.

Draw the hammer back slightly until it comes to rest at the half cock notch position.

Firing the Pistol -

WARNING

1. Be sure of your target and what's behind it! A bullet from a pistol travels as far as a mile. It can easily penetrate wood or plasterboard walls or even a car door.
2. Be sure that your hands and all parts of your body are kept away from the muzzle of your pistol at all times!
3. Always wear eye and ear protection when firing the pistol.

Single-action mode - (Hammer cocked)

1. **Disengage control lever** - disengage the control lever by pressing it downward with the firing thumb so that the "F" on the lever aligns with the reference line located on the frame.
2. **Aim** - aim at the target.
3. **Fire** - fire the pistol by pressing the trigger straight to the rear with gradually increasing pressure.
4. **Reengage control lever** - reengage control lever in "safe" position to remain in the single-action mode once firing is completed.

CAUTION

Single action mode trigger pull is lighter & shorter than double action mode. Keep your finger off the trigger & outside the trigger guard except when firing the pistol.

Double-action mode - (Hammer uncocked)

1. **Disengage control lever** (if applicable) - disengage the control lever by pressing it downward with the firing thumb so that the "F" on the lever aligns with the reference line located on the frame.
2. **Aim** - aim at the target.
3. **Fire** - fire the pistol by pressing the trigger straight the rear with gradually increasing pressure.
4. **Decock or engage control lever** - fully depress the control lever (if applicable) to return to the double-action mode or place the control lever on safe to remain in single-action mode.

NOTE

Variant 7, the double-action only model of the HK USP Compact does not have a control lever. The hammer of this variant (and variants 5 & 6) will automatically return to the uncocked position each time the slide returns to its forward position.

Unloading the Pistol -
To unload the pistol, follow the “Clearing” procedure.

Clearing the Pistol The HK USP Compact is not considered “clear” or safe unless:

1. The control lever (if applicable) is on “SAFE” and;
2. The magazine is removed from the pistol and;
3. The slide is locked to the rear and;
4. The chamber is free of brass or ammunition.

To Clear the HK USP Compact Pistol:

1. **Make sure fingers are outside of the trigger guard and the pistol is pointed in a safe direction at all times!**
2. **Engage control lever** (if applicable). Press the control lever upwards until the “S” aligns with the reference line located on the frame.
3. **Remove magazine**. Depress the magazine release lever and remove the magazine from the pistol.
4. **Open and lock slide *while pointing the pistol in a safe direction,*** lock the slide open by pulling the slide rearward as you press the slide release upward. Watch for a cartridge or empty case to be ejected from the pistol.
5. **Inspect chamber**. Inspect chamber for the presence of a cartridge or empty case by:
   - Visually viewing chamber through open ejection port and;
   - Physically inserting finger into chamber through ejection port to check for the presence of a cartridge or empty case.

Remove any cartridges or empty cases from the chamber or from within the pistol.

The HK USP Compact is now considered “Clear”.

If the pistol fails to fire, clear and disassemble it and check for:

1. Obstructions in the chamber, bore or frame. Remove obstructions.
2. Bad ammunition.Try new ammunition.
3. Unserviceable magazine. Replace magazine.
4. Fouling or lack of lubrication. Clean and lubricate the pistol in accordance with the instructions contained within this manual.
5. Evidence of severely worn or broken parts. Contact your authorized HK dealer or unit armorer.

If your pistol still fails to operate correctly, contact your unit armorer, authorized HK dealer, or Heckler & Koch's Customer Service Department for guidance.

WARNING

If a cartridge is assembled without powder (a fault of the manufacturing process), the primer alone has enough power to propel the bullet into the bore. A bullet lodged in the bore may cause damage to the barrel and/or pistol if another cartridge is fired and could cause personal injury or even death. This event is commonly called a "squib load" or "pop and no kick" and is characterized by a reduced report and little or no movement of the slide. An alert operator could notice the occurrence of this event in time to avoid firing the next cartridge.

Selection and Use of a holster

Selection. When selecting a carrying holster for the HK USP Compact, it is important to consider the following points:

1. The holster must not make contact with or actuate any of the operating controls. This includes the hammer, slide release, magazine release lever, and most importantly the control lever and the trigger. The design of the holster must also not actuate these controls when the pistol is carried in, drawn from, or returned to the holster.
2. The holster should not cause the slide to move (unlock) when the pistol is returned to the holster.
3. Accommodations must be provided in the holster for any accessories that might be present on the pistol.
4. Choose a holster designed specifically for the HK USP Compact pistol.

Returning the pistol to the holster. The USP Compact must be made "safe" (or cleared) prior to returning it to the holster. The pistol is considered safe to return it to the holster when:

1. All fingers are off of the trigger and out of the trigger guard and;
2. The pistol is "clear" or;
3. The hammer is in the decocked (down) position and/or;
4. The control lever is engaged in the safe position when the hammer is cocked.

WARNING
The pistol must never be returned to the holster unless the above procedures have been followed or injury or death could occur.

Storage and Transport -

1. Store or transport the pistol and its components clean and lubricated.
2. Store and transport the pistol **without** cartridges in the chamber, magazine, or in the storage container.
3. Store and transport the pistol with the slide forward and the hammer down (uncocked).
4. Clean and lubricate the pistol and it's components at least every twelve (12) months during storage.
5. Store the pistol and it's components in a clean, dry, dust-free environment with regulated temperature controls.
6. Store the pistol and ammunition separately under lock and key.

SECTION 6 DISASSEMBLY AND ASSEMBLY

Clear the Pistol! The HK USP Compact is not considered "clear" or safe unless:

1. The control lever (if applicable) is on "SAFE" and;
2. The magazine is removed from the pistol and;
3. The slide is locked to the rear and;
4. The chamber is free of brass or ammunition

To Clear the HK USP Compact:

1. **Make sure fingers are outside of the trigger guard and the pistol is pointed in a safe direction at all times!**
2. **Engage control lever** (if applicable). Press the control lever upwards until the "S" aligns with the reference line located on the frame.
3. **Remove magazine.** Depress the magazine release lever and remove the magazine from the pistol.
4. **Open and lock slide *while pointing the pistol in a safe direction*,** lock the slide open by pulling the slide rearward as you press the slide release upward. Watch for a cartridge or empty case to be ejected from the pistol.
5. **Inspect chamber**. Inspect chamber for the presence of a cartridge or empty case by:
   - Visually viewing chamber through open ejection port and;
   - Physically inserting finger into chamber through ejection port to check for the presence of a cartridge or empty case.

Remove any cartridges or empty cases from the chamber or from within the pistol.

The USP Compact is now considered "Clear".

Disassembly (Field stripping) **Pistol** -

1. Depress the slide release and allow the slide to move forward.
2. Using the firing hand, retract ***and hold*** the slide to the rear so that the axle of the slide release is visible through the recess in the left side of the slide (See Figure 31A).
3. With the non-firing hand, completely remove the slide release from the left side of the frame by pressing on the axle of the slide release from the right side of the frame.

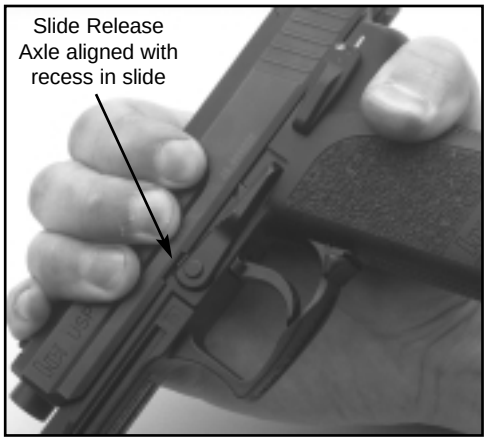

Figure 31A

CAUTION

Hold the recoil assembly in place while removing the slide from the frame. If not, this assembly could be released under spring tension and could possibly cause injury to personnel, or become damaged or lost.

4. Remove the slide with barrel and recoil spring assembly by sliding it forward off of the frame. (see Figure 31B below)

Figure 31B

5. **Carefully** remove the recoil spring assembly from the barrel and slide by lifting up on the rear of the recoil spring guide rod. The entire assembly can now be lifted out of the slide (see Figure 32)
6. Remove the recoil spring assembly. The USP Compact uses a “captive” recoil spring assembly, disassembly is not recommended.
7. Lift the rear of the barrel by the locking block and withdraw it from the slide.

Figure 32

NOTE

Disassembly of the pistol is now complete. Only an HK certified armorer should disassemble the pistol further.

Pistol Assembly -

1. Position the barrel in the slide so that:
   - The muzzle of the barrel fits in the hole in the front of the slide.
   - The locking block portion of the barrel fits within the ejection port and the angled locking surfaces of the locking block are visible along the bottom of the slide.

2. Install the recoil spring assembly into the slide so the front of the recoil spring guide rod engages in the small hole provided in the front of the slide.

3. Align the opposing angled locking surfaces on the rear end of the recoil spring guide rod with those located on the bottom of the barrel locking block. (See Figures 34A & 34B)